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CHAOS!
COMICS

EVIL ERNIE

IN SANTA FE



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HORLEY

EVIL ERNIE

IN SANTA FE

Alan Grant
WRITER

Tommy Castillo
ARTIST

Carsten Bradley
COLORIST

Steve Seeley
LETTERER

Cover by Alex Horley

Special Thanks to Mark Powers

ONCE, THERE WAS A BOY NAMED EARNEST FAIRCHILD. YEARS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT AT THE HANDS OF HIS PARENTS TWISTED ERNIE, HIS REPRESSED ANGER DEVELOPING INTO A VIOLENT PSYCHOSIS. EVENTUALLY, HIS RAGE EXPLODED IN MURDEROUS FASHION, AND THE YOUTH KILLED HIS PARENTS.

BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF HIS STORY...

NUMEROUS TREATMENTS WERE UNDERTAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO CURE ERNIE. SO SEVERE WAS HIS CONDITION THAT EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES AND TECHNOLOGY WERE USED ON HIM. BUT INSTEAD OF QUELLING HIS HOMICIDAL INSTINCTS, THE EFFORTS OF ONE DR. PRICE INSTEAD AWAKENED SOMETHING FAR DEADLIER. ERNIE WAS REBORN AS A NEAR-IMMORTAL BEING WITH AN INSATIABLE THIRST FOR CARNAGE — AND THE ABILITY TO RAISE HIS VICTIMS FROM THE DEAD AS ZOMBIE SLAVES.

THEY THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, GONE FOREVER. BUT SOME EVIL CAN NEVER DIE...

Josh Blaylock
PRESIDENT

Sam Wells
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER

Susan Bishop
VP MARKETING

Michael O'Sullivan
SENIOR EDITOR

Crank!
COMPUTER OPERATIONS

Tim Seeley
STAFF ARTIST

Evan Sult
ART DIRECTOR

Sean Dave
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Steve Seeley
STAFF LETTERER



Andy Eaton
PRESIDENT, CHAOS! COMICS



EVIL ERNIE IN SANTA FE comic book, Issue 1. FIRST PRINTING: SEPTEMBER, 2005. Published by Devil's Due Publishing, Inc. Office of publication 4619 N. Ravenswood Ave #204, Chicago, IL 60640. Chaos! Comics and its logo, Evil Ernie and Smiley are trademarks of Tales of Wonder, Inc. in the U.S.A. and other countries, and are used with permission. ©2005 Chaos! Comics. The events and characters presented in this book are entirely fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. No portion of this comic book may be used or reproduced by any means (digital or print) without written permission from Devil's Due Publishing, Inc., except for review purposes. Printed in Canada.

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"GOOD AND EVIL ARE NOT DETERMINED
BY THE INTERCOURSE OF PEOPLE WITH ONE
ANOTHER, BUT ENTIRELY BY A MAN'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF."

- JAKOB WASSERMAN -

FOR DAYS, A *HOT*
WIND HAD BLOWN OUT OF
THE DESERT, *SCOURING*
THE TOWN LIKE SANDPAPER.

THEN THE WIND
DROPPED... AND
SUNSET BROUGHT *EVIL*
TO SANTA FE.

YOU SURE THIS
IS WHERE HE LIVES,
ETNIE?

NO.
BUT IF IT
ISN'T--

--I'LL KILL
WHOEVER LIVES
HERE, ANYWAY!



HELLO.

I'VE COME
TO KILL
YOU.



B-B-BUT
WHY?... I HAVEN'T
DONE ANYTHING TO
YOU!

I HAVEN'T
DONE ANYTHING
TO YOU, EITHER.

YET.

Y-YOU'RE MAKING
A *MISTAKE!* FOR GOD'S
SAKE--WHY DO YOU WANT
TO KILL *ME?*

THE
SPINNING
TOP TOLD
ME TO.

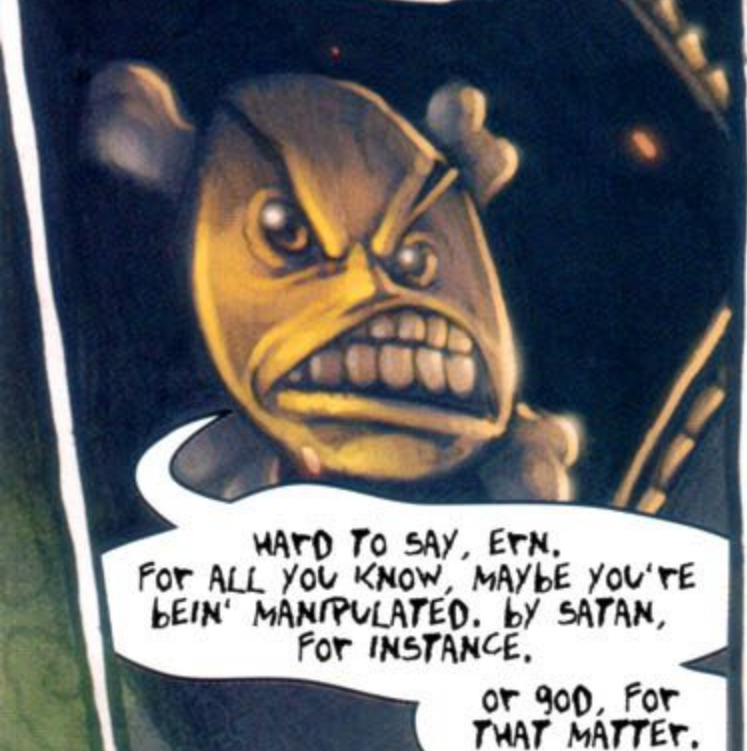
THE
SPINNING
TOP...?



D'YOU
THINK I'VE GOT
FREE WILL,
SMILEY?

HOW'D YOU MEAN,
ERNIE? LIKE... DO YOU KILL FOLKS
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO... OR BECAUSE
SOME INNER DEMON MAKES YOU?

YEAH.



HARD TO SAY, ERN.
FOR ALL YOU KNOW, MAYBE YOU'RE
BEIN' MANIPULATED. BY SATAN,
FOR INSTANCE.

OR GOD, FOR
THAT MATTER.



GOD WOULDN'T
WANT ME TO KILL.



ARE YOU JOKIN'? GOD'S A REAL
HEAVY DUDE. HE SMOTE THE MALACHITES,
AN' THE CANAANITES... AN' A BOATLOAD OF
OTHERS. AN' HE SMOTE THEM SORE.

IT'S JESUS
WHO DOESN'T
LIKE MURDER.
GOD LOVES DEAD
FOLKS!



THAT MEANS YOU
HAVE TO KILL THE FOURTH
PERSON YOU SEE.

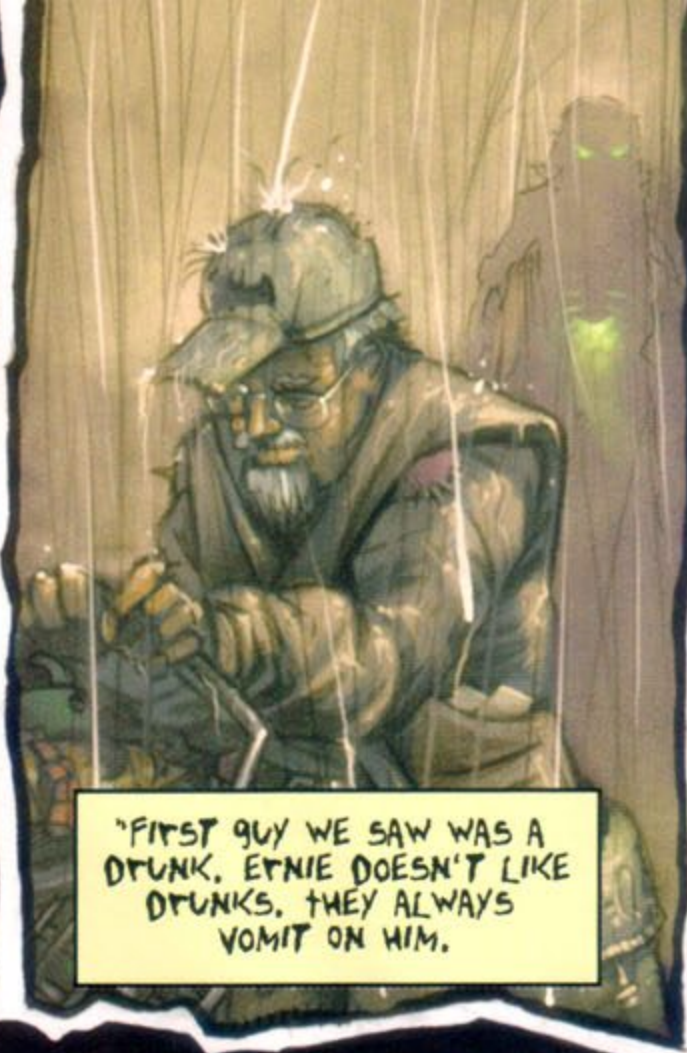
COULD BE
ALL OF THE FIRST
FOUR FOLK
I SEE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU DECIDED.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, IT MIGHT BE
'COS YOU'RE BEIN' MANIPULATED.



YOU'RE
REAL CLEVER,
SMILEY.

FOR A
BUTTON.



"FIRST GUY WE SAW WAS A DRUNK. ERNIE DOESN'T LIKE DRUNKS. THEY ALWAYS VOMIT ON HIM.



"SECOND PERSON WAS A KID...



yeah, yeah...
EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU GOT THEM CHILDHOOD ISSUES OF YOURS, ERN. EVERYBODY KNOWS IT. COME ON, MAN...
...DON'T GO ALL MOROSE ON ME. YOU GOT WORK TO DO!



"THIRD GUY WAS DELIVERIN' PIZZA. ERNIE WAS HUNGRY, SO HE ALMOST HAD HIM. BUT WE WAITED...



FOR YOU.



DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE JUST THE FIRST.

BUT WH--WHY CHOOSE ME? WHY NOT THE OTHERS...?

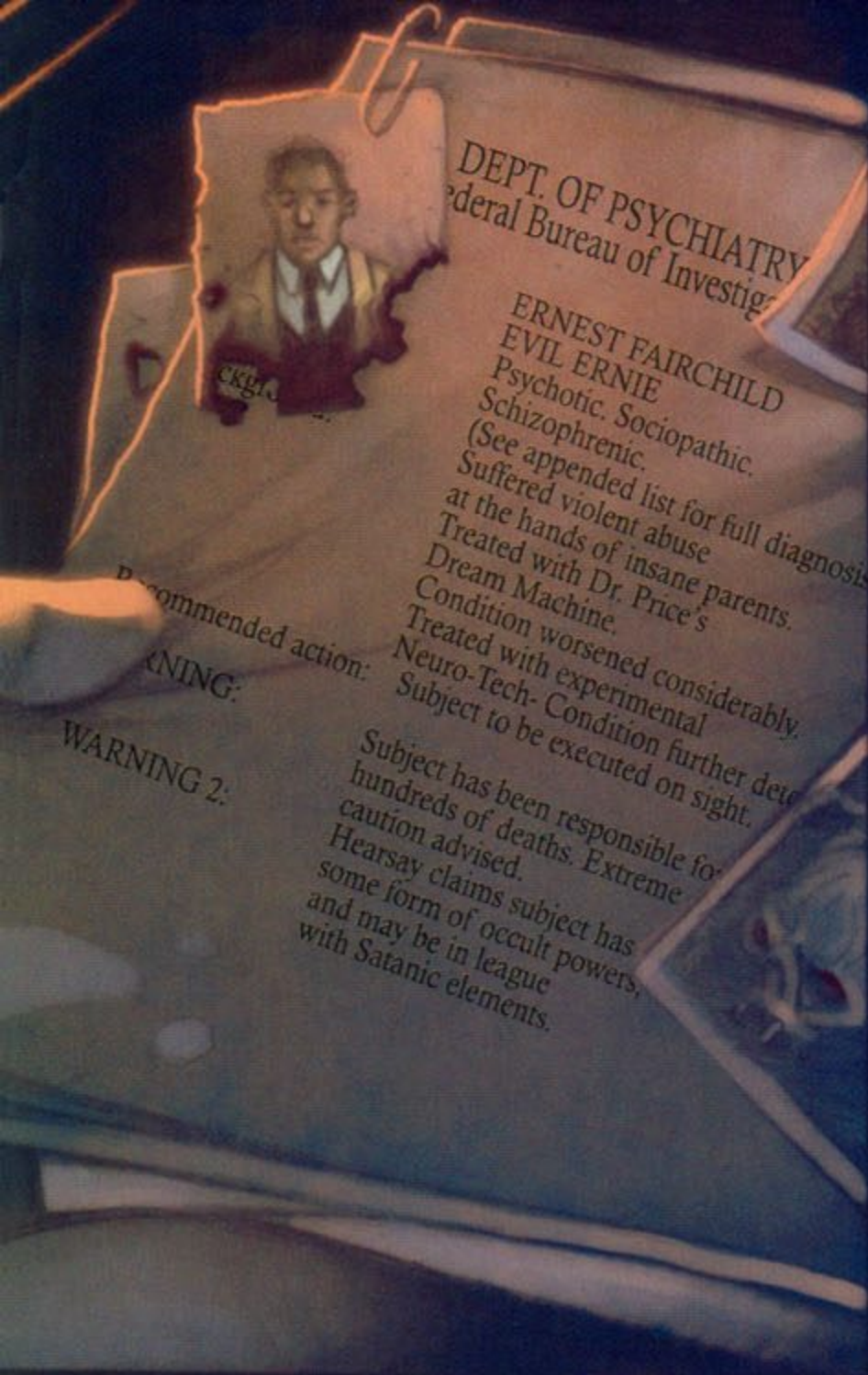


WH--WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING...?



DECIDING
HOW TO
TORTURE
YOU.





I'VE READ IT
A DOZEN TIMES, *LAYNA*--
AND IT *STILL* SAYS NOTHING
ABOUT ERNIE LIKING
THE *DESERT*.

IF YOU
ASK ME, WE'RE
WASTING OUR TIME IN
THIS GODFORSAKEN
WILDERNESS!

I'M *PAYING*
FOR YOUR TIME, *RIG*.
AND MY GUT FEELING
SAYS HE'S OUT HERE
SOMEPLACE.

GUESS THAT'S
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
YOU AND THE *F.B.I.*...

...THEY'VE GOT
A *HUNDRED* MEN
LOOKING EVERYWHERE
EXCEPT THE BLOODY
DESERT!

IT WAS *MY* FATHER
WHO USED THE *DREAM*
MACHINE ON ERNIE. IT
WAS *MY* FATHER WHO
DIED DURING THE
MANHUNT.

I PROBABLY
KNOW MORE ABOUT
THAT EVIL BASTARD
ERNIE FAIRCHILD THAN
ANYBODY ELSE
ALIVE!



SUIT
YOURSELF,
LADY.

I'M
JUST GLAD IT'S
NOT *MY* CAR'S
SUSPENSION ON
THIS ROAD!



THERE--!





ASH IS
STILL WARM.
SOMEBODY'S
BEEN HERE.



ANYBODY
IN THERE?

WE'RE
ARMED.
COME ON
OUT!



COVER
ME!



GAHH!



GIVE
ME A HAND
HERE!

THERE ARE
PLENTY LYING
AROUND, IF YOU
NEED THEM!



JEEZ! THIS IS
DISGUSTING!

LOOK ON THE
BRIGHT SIDE. WE'VE
FOUND EVIL ERNIE'S
HIDEOUT.

HOW CAN
YOU BE SO
SURE IT'S HIM?



HE'S CUT OFF
THEIR HEADS. STOPS
THEM BECOMING
ZOMBIES.



ZOMBIES?

MY FATHER TOLD
ME EVERY TIME ERNIE
KILLS SOMEONE, HE OR
SHE COMES BACK AS A
ZOMBIE. THEN *THEY*
START KILLING,
TOO.

DAD THOUGHT
MAYBE A COMBINATION
OF THE DREAM MACHINE
AND NEURO-TECH GAVE
ERNIE *PARANORMAL
ABILITIES.*



DO YOU THINK
WE SHOULD TELL
THE POLICE?

NO. LET
THE COPS FIND
THEIR OWN STIFFS.
WE DON'T WANT TO
GO *SHARING* THE
*MILLION-DOLLAR
REWARD.*

I DON'T CARE
ABOUT THE CASH.
I JUST WANT TO SEE
THAT EVIL BASTARD
STOPPED...
...*PERMANENTLY!*



FANCY
SOMETHING TO
EAT? THERE'S A
FASTWAYZ IN A
COUPLE OF
MILES.

I HEAR
THAT STUFF'S
TOXIC. I'LL WAIT
TILL WE HIT
SANTA FE.

TAKE THE
MONEY! IT'S *YOURS!*
I...I CAN GET YOU
MORE!

RIGHT?

CAN'T EAT
MONEY.

MMFF!

GETTIN' HUNGRY, HUH,
PAL? CHOW DOWN! YOU GOTTA
KEEP UP YOUR STRENGTH FOR
THE TORTURE!

CHECK THIS,
SMILEY!

WHOA! NOT
YOUR TYPICAL URBAN
UTILITY CUPBOARD!

PTT...DON'T GO IN
THERE! THERE'S NOTHING
YOU'D BE INTERESTED
IN...PTTF!

WHAT YOU DOIN',
MAN? YOU GOT A GUY
TO SLICE AN' DICE,
FOR PETE'S SAKE!

JUST
GIVE ME FIVE
MINUTES...

DEEP IN EVIL ERNIE'S
HEAD, THERE'S A PLACE
HE CAN GO--

HIS PRIVATE PLACE.
A PLACE WHERE HE ONCE
WAS *HAPPY*--



-- IT'S LIKE
COMING HOME.



ERNIE LIKES
IT HERE. IT'S SO
PEACEFUL...

...BUT SO EMPTY NOW.
THE LADY HE LOVED HAS GONE
AWAY, LEAVING HIM WITH AN *ACHE*
IN HIS *HEART* AND A YAWNING
CHASM IN HIS *SOUL*.

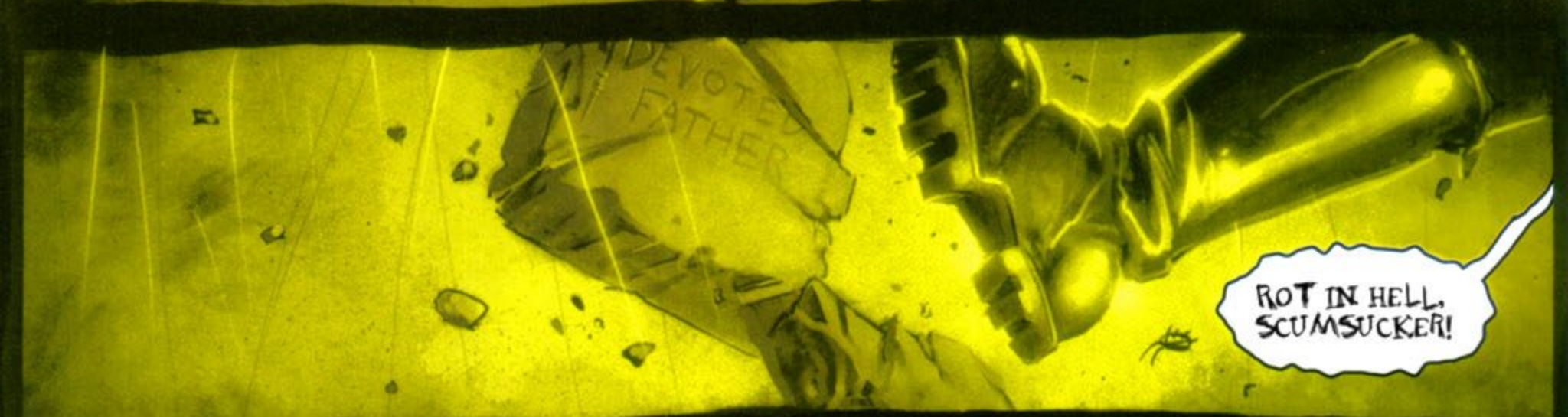
IS THIS *ALL*
THERE IS TO LIFE?
DEATH?



EVERYONE HE'S
EVER KILLED IS HERE,
PIECES OF A *PUZZLE* THAT
JUST GETS BIGGER AND
BIGGER--A PUZZLE HE CAN
NEVER *SOLVE*...

EVEN IF HE
KILLS THE WHOLE
WORLD.

SPTOO!



ROT IN HELL,
SCUMSUCKER!



WHY DID THEY
DO IT? HE WAS ONLY A
BOY. HE COULD HAVE BEEN...
NORMAL. WHY DID THEY
HATE HIM SO?

WHY? WHY?
WHY?



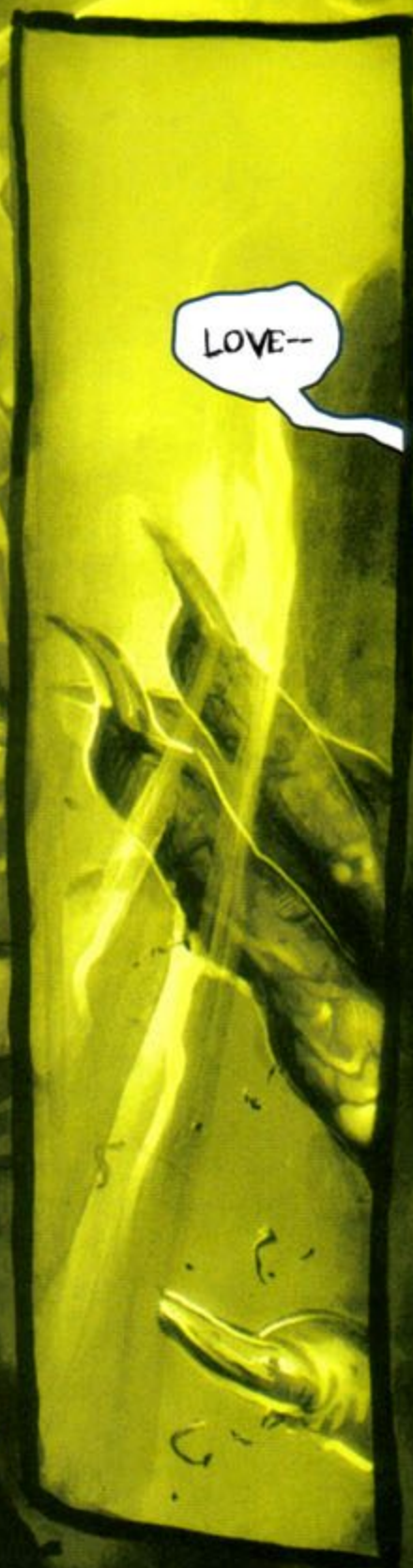
WHAT...?



LADY!
LADY!



LADY,
YOU CAME
BACK TO
ME. I--



LOVE--



YOU.



WHAT'S
WRONG, PAL?

IT WAS
THE LADY. I SAW
THE LADY.



THE LADY'S GONE,
ERNIE. SHE BETRAYED
YOU. LIKE EVERYBODY
ELSE YOU EVER
TRUSTED.
IT'S JUST YOU AN'
ME NOW. BROTHERS
IN DEATH. RIGHT, PAL?



RIGHT,
SMILEY.

THEN LET'S
GET COOKIN',
bro!



PLEASE--DON'T DO
THIS! I CAN TELL
YOU THINGS. **BAD**
THINGS!

THOSE
GUYS I WAS
WITH--**THEY'RE**
THE ONES WHO
DESERVE
TO DIE!

THEY'RE INTO
BLACK MAGIC.
THEY--THEY HURT
CHILDREN!

I'LL TELL YOU
ALL ABOUT THEM--
WHERE TO FIND THEM,
EVERYTHING! J-JUST
PROMISE YOU WON'T
KILL ME..!

CHILDREN?

DEAL.

NOW
TALK.



DAMN! I KNEW WE
WENT AFTER THE
WRONG GUY. THAT
CREEP'S GOT YOU ALL
WOUND UP! AN' YOU
LEFT HIM ALIVE!

DON'T LIKE
PEOPLE HURTING
KIDS. ERNIE'S
GONNA HURT
THEM... BAD.

WAIT.



WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOIN' NOW?



GIVING
MYSELF A SECOND
CHANCE.





WHAT OPTIONS
DID YOU GIVE THE
TOP?

IF IT
LANDED
ONE THROUGH
SIX, I GO BACK
AND KILL
HIM.

THAT'S WHAT
I CALL LOADIN'
THE BASES,
PAL!

WRONG,
SMILEY. I CALL
IT FREE WILL.

NEXT ISSUE: HOW TO SKIN A SKINWALKER!

A FIEND IN NEED IS A FIEND INDEED!

EVIL ERNIE

IN SANTA FE



#2 (OF 4) • OCTOBER 2005

ALAN GRANT • TOMMY CASTILLO



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or go to www.devilsduestore.com for the latest Devil's Due Publishing products!



The Impending Chaos!



from the Crypt

You hold in your hands Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #1. In the coming months, Purgatori and Chastity will also hit the stands at your local comic book store (to find a store close to you, call the Comic Book Store Locator Service toll free at 1-888-COMIC BOOK). Our first step in resurrecting comics' most recognizable horror icons of the 1990s was to match some of the industry's top writers to the characters. Some of our choices may seem unconventional at first, but we believe readers will agree that the our current line-up of scribes have breathed new (un)dead life into these characters. Our second step is to ensure readers try our books. To that end, Chaos! Comics is doing something no other publisher is doing in the comic book industry. We are standing behind our books. That's right, Chaos! Comics is offering readers a Money-Back Guarantee. If our books suck, send them back and we will refund your purchase price.

If you are reading this editorial, you have likely already read Alan Grant's first issue with Evil Ernie. Alan has been nominated for both the Harvey and Eisner awards and has tackled some of comic's darkest characters from Batman to Lobo to Judge Dredd. As can be seen in the accompanying interview, Alan has some twisted ideas for everyone's favorite serial killer. For the first time, Ernie is not building a zombie army. Why? That question and others will be answered before the series end.

For those readers not familiar with Robert Rodi's knowledge and treatment of mythology, I highly recommend his recent Loki mini series from Marvel. Robert's scholar-like knowledge of ancient Egypt, its customs, its gods and its dark side bring depth and realism to his take on Purgatori. The blood goddess reigns again in ancient Egypt as she is pitted against the powerful gods of that ancient religion and feasts upon both Kings and Queens alike.

(continued next column)

PURGATORI RETURNS!

The World's Sexiest Vampire has returned! When human civilization was in its infancy, legend spoke of a woman cursed to walk the earth forever, whose deadly beauty was irresistible to man and woman alike. A being who would eventually threaten the gods themselves! Her name is Purgatori, and you've never seen her more deadly or alluring than in the hands of novelist and critical darling Robert Rodi (*Loki, Elektra*) and Cliff Richards (*Buffy, Rogue*)! Chaos! Comics proudly invites you to join Robert and Cliff as they weave Purgatori through a breathtaking tapestry of Egyptian history, vampire mythology, and warring gods! PURGATORI #1 is the beginning of an ongoing monthly series available at local comic book stores nationwide in October.



Interior from Purgatori #1 (October)

EVIL ERNIE IN SANTA FE #2

Ernie's back - at his psychotic, lovelorn best! The Evil One's latest victim was a member of a murderous cult - a cult now determined to destroy him with the power of the Skinwalker! Meanwhile, Ernie's also being hunted by a woman who might be the Lady of his dreams...? Alan Grant brings his madcap brew of over-the-top violence and black humor made famous on *Judge Dredd* and *Lobo* to the Chaos! Universe, with lush "visceral" provided by Tommy (*Toe Tags*) Castillo! EVIL ERNIE IN SANTA FE #2 is available with covers by Alex Horley and a special "rock gig" poster cover by Jeff Gaither.

OCTOBER CHAOS!



Purgatori #1 - October



Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #2
Cover A - Alex Horley



Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #2
Cover B - Jeff Gaither "gig" poster

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Chaos! Comics is resurrecting its characters in 2005 with a focus on quality storytelling and art. We want both old and new readers to give the Chaos! books a try. To that end, Chaos! is doing something no other publisher is doing in the comic book industry. Through August 2006, readers that purchase any of the issues from 2005-2006 of Evil Ernie, Purgatori or Chastity can return the comic books to Chaos! Comics for a full refund if they are not fully satisfied. To qualify for the refund, readers must return them to:

Chaos! Comics Money Back Guarantee
1255 Buford Highway Suite 208
Suwanee, GA 30024-8421

Returns must be received within 90 days of the comic book release date with a valid receipt. Readers must also include a note explaining why they did not like the issue returned. One return per issue, per household, address or person. Chaos! Comics will issue a check within 4 weeks of receiving the return. The amount refunded will be exclusive of shipping and tax.

INTERVIEW: ALAN GRANT

ChaosComics.com recently interviewed Evil Ernie scribe Alan Grant about his plans for our beloved undead teenage psychopath. Here is a portion of the interview (visit our site for the full text!):

CHAOS!: You've written some of the most hardcore badasses and anti-heroes in comics - Judge Dredd, Lobo, not to mention your 13-year association with a certain Dark Knight Detective. After all the broken bones, mayhem and murder you've already inflicted on the world over the years, what's the creative appeal of a character like Evil Ernie?

AG: I can sum it up in editor Mark Powers' words when he offered me the job: "The story's about a serial killer...but we think you can make it funny."

That's the kind of challenge I like.

To be honest, since DC cancelled the "Lobo" monthly I feel I haven't had a real hardcore outlet for my type of story and character.

CHAOS!: A large measure of Ernie's motivation in the previous Chaos! Universe was tied up in his relationship to Lady Death, a character which Chaos! no longer owns. In your estimation, what now drives Ernie to do the horrific things he does?

AG: That's what Ernie wants to discover in this series. Is it the severe violence he suffered in childhood? Is it because Satan—or God—is driving him? Or is it because he wants to do it...which would truly make him evil, instead of just a pawn in someone else's game. Ernie still has a love interest—he's fallen for the voluptuous Layna, indeed he even presents her with a severed head as a token of his esteem. And in potential future series, we'll delve back into the world of demonry.

CHAOS!: Smiley, Evil Ernie's sentient psychotic button, can be a difficult character to get a bead on. What are your plans for him?

AG: Oh yeah. He gets an arrow through his puss in part 2. I'm playing Smiley a little enigmatically, though: I mean, how does a button know anything about religion, magic and babes? He's always on at Ernie not to trust anybody—except the faithful Smiley—for fear of betrayal. Without giving anything away regarding future storylines, I wonder if Smiley has his own agenda...? I'll tell you one thing: he's a really funny character.

CHAOS!: Why did you choose Santa Fe as the setting for this story?

AG: A few years back artist Kevin O'Neill and I hired a Cadillac and took our wives on a month-long tour of Arizona and New Mexico. After two weeks in various deserts, with no alcohol, we arrived in Santa Fe. Our wives tell us it's a beautiful city, with the most gorgeous Indian artefacts for sale. Unfortunately Kevin and I got so drunk, all we saw of Santa Fe was the sidewalk, as we negotiated it on our hands and knees, occasionally vomiting on people's feet. I've always wanted to make it up to the city for my terrible behaviour, so now I've sent them Evil Ernie.

Visit ChaosComics.com for more...

HARDCORE FIEND

Special thanks to Kevin Southwell for going above and beyond the call of dark duty to spread the Chaos! word. Thank you!

(CONTINUED)

Finally, Chaos! veteran and Harvey-nominated Dan Jolley takes his turn at Chastity. Chastity's best friend is murdered and she hunts down the perpetrators to make them pay. But, in doing so, has Chastity stumbled onto a larger, more sinister agenda?

Our mission is to publish the best horror and supernatural stories in the direct market. With our team of accomplished creators, we believe readers will agree that we have hit that mark.

Spread the word. Chaos! Comics is back from the dead.

Chaos! Checklist

SEPTEMBER 2005

- Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #1 (of 4)

OCTOBER 2005

- Purgatori #1 (monthly)
- Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #2 (of 4)

NOVEMBER 2005

- Purgatori #2 (monthly)
- Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #3 (of 4)

DECEMBER 2005

- Purgatori #3 (monthly)
- Evil Ernie in Santa Fe #4 (of 4)

info@ChaosComics.com

www.ChaosComics.com

PURGATOR



EVIL ERNIE



COMICS THAT ROCK!

This October, all Devil's Due comics feature covers by nationally infamous rock poster artists **RICH BLACK**, **CASEY BURNS**, **JEFF GAITHER**, and **DAVID WITT**.

Don't miss these covers in October! Cool art by the guys whose posters adorn America's city walls—cool covers at your comic shop: Devil's Due brings the rock!



DDP

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EGYPTIAN HISTORY, VAMPIRE MYTHOLOGY, AND WARRING GODS:

THE WORLD'S SEXIEST VAMPIRE RETURNS!

PURGATOR!

ROBERT RODI (LOKI, ELEKTRA) & CLIFF RICHARDS (BUFFY, ROGUE)

PURGATOR!

OCTOBER 2005



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